

REMARKS

Claims 1-98 remain in the referenced application. Claims 1, 39, 76, and 86 have been amended. Claims 3-5, 7-9, 41-43, 45-47, 78-80, and 82-84 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 11-38, 49-75, and 86-98 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 39, 40, 44, 48, 76, 77, 81, and 85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Goodhart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,780,170 – hereinafter referred to as Goodhart).

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1 and 39 by Goodhart, Applicant has amended those claims to recite the one or more water-soluble polymers as being dispersed into the polyalkylene glycol. Applicant respectfully submits Goodhart does not anticipate claims 1 and 39 as amended because Goodhart does not disclose the dispersion of one or more water-soluble polymers into polyalkylene glycol. Goodhart discloses a spray dry insoluble film coating consisting of ethylcellulose combined with one or more of polyethylene glycol and hydrogenated castor oil. Particularly, the ethylcellulose and the hydrogenated castor oil dissolve into the polyethylene glycol to form a mixture that when combined with methenanimine mandelate and spray dried forms a coating about the methenanimine mandelate. Consequently, Goodhart does not disclose the ethylcellulose dispersed in the polyethylene glycol to form a non-aqueous suspension because the ethylcellulose actually dissolves along with the hydrogenated castor oil into the polyethylene glycol to form an insoluble film coating. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Goodhart does not anticipate claims 1 and 39 as amended because the dissolution of ethylcellulose into the polyethylene glycol to form an insoluble film coating is not the same as the dispersion of one or more water-soluble polymers into polyalkylene glycol to form a non-aqueous suspension.

Applicant further respectfully submits claims 2, 6, 10, 40, 44, and 48 are patentable over Goodhart based upon the dependency of those claims from amended claims 1 and 39, respectively, and the preceding arguments.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 76 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Goodhart. Claim 76 recites a method of formulating a non-aqueous suspension that includes dispersing one or more water soluble polymers and a hydrogenated castor oil or wax into polyalkylene glycol and agitating the one or more water soluble polymers, the hydrogenated castor oil or wax, and the polyalkylene glycol until the one or more water soluble polymers are uniformly dispersed in the polyalkylene glycol and the hydrogenated castor wax dissolves. Goodhart conversely discloses a method of formulating a spray dry insoluble film coating that includes dissolving ethylcellulose and hydrogenated castor oil into polyethylene glycol to form a mixture that when combined with methenanimine mandelate and spray dried forms a coating about the methenanimine mandelate. Consequently, Goodhart does not disclose dispersing ethylcellulose in the polyethylene glycol to form a non-aqueous suspension because the ethylcellulose actually dissolves along with the hydrogenated castor oil into the polyethylene glycol to form an insoluble film coating. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Goodhart does not anticipate claim 76 because dissolving ethylcellulose into polyethylene glycol to form an insoluble film coating is not the same as the dispersing of one or more water-soluble polymers into polyalkylene glycol to form a non-aqueous suspension.

Applicant further respectfully submits claims 77, 81, and 85 are patentable over Goodhart based upon the dependency of those claims from claim 76 and the preceding arguments.

While claims 3-5, 7-9, 41-43, 45-47, 78-80, and 82-84 have been indicated as allowable, Applicant has not rewritten those claims in independent form based on the considered patentability of claims 1, 39, and 76.

The prior art made of record has been reviewed by Applicant and is deemed not to anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and earnestly solicits early allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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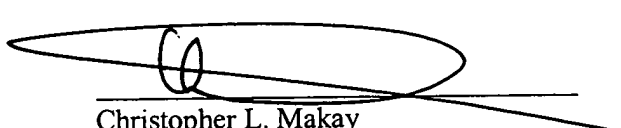
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